

THE
Confession of Faith
Of the KIRK of
SCOTLAND.

SUBSCRIBED

By the Kings Majestie and his Houf-
holde, in the yeare of God, 1580.

With a Designation of such acts of Parliament, as are con-
venient for supporting the Union, after mentioned.

And subscribed by the Nobles, Barons, Gentle-
men, Burgeses, Ministers, and Commons, in
the yeare of God, 1638.

IOSHUA Chap. 24. vers. 25.

So Josua made a Covenant with the people the same day, and gave
them an Ordinance and Law in Sichem.

2 KINGS II. 17.

And Jehoiada made a Covenant betweene the Lord and the King, and
the people, that they should bee the Lords people: likewise be-
tweene the King and the people.

ISAIAH. 44. 5.

One shall say, I am the Lords: another shall be called by the name of Jacob:
and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, &c.

*The Kings Majesties Charge, to all Commissioners and
Ministers, within this Realme, in the yeare of God*

1580.

Seeing that Wee, and our Housholde, have Subscribed
and given this publick Confession of our Faith, to the
good example of our Subjects: We commaund and charge
all Commissioners and Ministers, to crave the same Con-
fession of their Parochinars, and proceed against the refu-
sers, according to our Lawes and order of the Kirk, de-
livering their names, and lawfull proces to the Ministers
of ou, Houe, with all haste and diligence, under the paine
of fourtie pound to be taken from their stipend, that Wee,
with the advice of our Counsell, may take order with such
proud contemners of God and our Lawes.

Subscribed with our hand, at Halvudhouse, 1580.

*The 2. day of March, the 14. yeare of our
Reigne.*

Confession of Faith of the Kirk of Scotland, subscribed
by the King's Majesty and his Household in the Year 1580,
with Designation of such Acts of Parliament as are expe-
dient for justifying the Union, and subscribed by the Nobles
and Barons, Commons, &c. in 1638, 4to. h. b. scarce,

1638

The Confession of Faith,
OF
The Kirke of SCOTLAND.

THe Confession of Faith, subscribed at first by the Kings Majestie and his Household, in the yeare of God 1580. Thereafter, by Persons of all rankes, in the yeare 1581, By ordinance of the Lords of the Secret Counsell, and Acts of the generall Assembly. Subscribed againe by all sorts of Persons in the yeare 1590, By a new Ordinance of Counsell, at the desire of the generall Assembly: With a generall Band for maintenance of the true Religion and the Kings Person. And now subscribed in the yeare 1638. By Us, Noblemen, Barrons, Gentlemen, Burgessess, Ministers, and Commons, under subscribing: Together, with our resolution and promises for the causes after specified, To maintaine the sayd true Religion, and the Kings Majestie, according to the Confession foresayd, and Acts of Parliament. The Tenor whereof heere followeth.



EE All, and every one of Us underwritten, Protest, that, after long and due Examination of our owne Consciences, in matters of true & false Religion, are now thoroughly resolved of the Truth, by the Word and Spirit of God, & therefore we believe with our hearts, confesse with our mouths, subscribe

with our hands, and constantly affirme before God, and the whole Word : that this onely is the true Christian Faith and Religion, pleasing God, and bringing Salvation to man, which now is by the mercie of God revealed to the world, by the preaching of the blessed Evangell.

And received, believed, and defended, by many and sundry notable Kirkes and Reaknes, but chieflie by the *Kirk of Scotland, the Kings Majestie, and three estates of this Realme*, as Gods eternall Trueth, and onely ground of our Salvation : as more particularlie is expressed in the Confession of our Faith, stablished, and publicklie confirmed by sundry Acts of Parliaments, and now of a long time hath beene openlie professed by the *Kings Majestie, and whole body of this Realme* both in Burgh and Land. To the which Confession and forme of Religion, wee willingly agree in our consciences in all points, as unto Gods undoubted Trueth and Veritie, grounded onely upon his written Word. And therefore, we abhorre and detest all contrarie Religion, and Doctrine : But chieflie, all kinde of Papistrrie, in generall and particular heads, even as they are now damned and confuted by the *Word of God, and Kirk of Scotland* : but in speciall wee detest and refuse the usurped authoritie of that Roman Antichrist upon the Scriptures of God, upon the Kirk, the civill Magistrate, and consciences of men, All his tyrannous lawes made upon indifferent things against our Christian libertie, His erroneous Doctrine, against the sufficiencie of the written Word, the perfection of the Law, the office of Christ, and his blessed Evangell. His corrupted Doctrine concerning originall sinne, our naturall inability and rebellion to Gods Law, our Iustification by faith only, our imperfect Sanctification and obedience to the Law, the nature, number and use of the Holy Sacraments. His five bastard Sacraments, with all his Rites, Ceremonies, and false Doctrine, added to the ministration of the true Sacraments without the
Word

Word of God. His cruell judgement against Infants, departing without the Sacrament : his absolute necessitie of Baptisme: his blasphemous opinion of Transubstantiation, or reall presence of Christs body in the Elements, and receiving of the same by the wicked, or bodies of men. His dispensations with solemne Oathes, Perjuries, and degrees of Mariage forbidden in the Word : his crueltie against the innocent divorced : his divellish Masse : his blasphemous Priesthood : his profane Sacrifice for the sinnes of the dead and the quicke: his Canonization of men, calling upon Angels or Saints departed, worshipping of Imagerie, Relicks, and Crosses, dedicating of Kirks, Altars, Dayes, Vowes to creatures ; his Purgatorie, Prayers for the dead, praying, or speaking in a strange language, with his Processions and blasphemous Letanie, and multitude of Advocates or Mediators : his manifold Orders, Auricular Confession: his desperate and uncertaine Repentance; his generall and doubtfull Faith; his satisfactions of men for their sinnes : his Iustifications by works, *opus operatum*, works of Supererogation, Merits, Pardons, Peregrinations, and Stations : his holy water, baptising of Bells, conjuring of Spirits, crossing, anointing, conjuring, hallowing of GODS good creatures, with the superstitious opinion, joynd therewith : his worldlie Monarchie, and wicked Hierarchie : his three solemne vowes, with all his shavelings of sundrie sorts, his erroneous and bloudie decrees made at *Trent*, with all the subscribers and approvers of that cruell and bloudie Band, conjured against the Kirk of GOD : and finally, wee detest all his vaine Allegories, Rites, Signes and Traditions, brought in the Kirk, without, or against the Word of GOD, and Doctrine of this true reformed Kirk, to the which wee joyne our selves willingly, in Doctrine, Faith, Religion, Discipline, and use of the Holy Sacraments, as lively members of the same, in Christ our Head : promising and swearing by the

Great Name of the Lord our GOD, that wee shall continue in the obedience of the Doctrine and Discipline of this Kirk, and shall defend the same according to our vocation and Power, all the dayes of our lives, under the paines contained in the Law, and danger both of Body and Soule, in the day of *GODS* fearefull Iudgement: and seeing that many are stirred up by Sathan, and that Roman Antichrist, to promise, sweare, subscribe, and for a time use the holy Sacraments in the Kirk, deceitfullie against their owne consciences, minding thereby, first, under the externall cloake of Religion, to corrupt and subvert secretlie *GODS* true Religion within the Kirk, and afterward, whentime may serve, to become open enemies and persecutors of the same, under vaine hope of the Popes dispensation, devised against the Word of *GOD*, to his greater confusion, and their double condemnation in the day of the *LORD IESUS*.

Wee, therefore, willing to take away all suspicion of hypocrisie, and of such double dealing with *GOD* and his Kirk, Protest, and call *The Searcher of all hearts* for witnesse, that Our mindes and hearts, doe fully agree with this our *Confession, Promise, Oath, and Subscription*, so that We are not mooved for any worldly respect, but are perswaded onely in our Consciences, through the knowledge and love of Gods true Religion, printed in Our hearts, by the holy Spirit, as wee shall answer to him in the day, when the secrets of all hearts shall bee disclosed. And because wee perceave, that the quietnes and stabilitie of our Religion and Kirk, doth depend upon the safetie and good behaviour of the Kings Majestie, as upon a comfortable instrument of Gods mercie; graunted to this Countrey, for the maintaining of his Kirk, and ministration of Iustice amongst us, wee protest and promise with our hearts under the same Oath, Hand-writ, and paines, that wee shall defend his Person and Authoritie, with our goods, bodies, and

and lives, in the defence of Christ his Evangell, Liberties of our Countrey, ministration of Iustice, and punishment of iniquitie, against all enemies within this Realme, or without, as wee desire our *GOD* to bee a strong and mercifull defender to us in the day of our death, and comming of our Lord *Iesus Christ*: To whom with the Father, and the holy Spirit, bee all Honour and Glorie Eternallie.

LIKE as many Acts of Parliament not onely in generall doe abrogate, annull, and rescind all Lawes, Statutes, Acts, Constitutions, Canons, civill or municipall, with all other Ordinances and practique penulties whatsoever, made in prejudice of the true Religion and Professours thereof: Or, of the true Kirk discipline, jurisdiction, and freedome thereof: Or in favours of Idolatrie and Superstition: Or of the Papistickall Kirk: As, *Act. 3. Act. 31. Parl. 1. Act. 23. Parl. 11. Act. 114. Parl. 12.* of King *James the sixth*, That Papistrie & Superstition may bee utterly suppressed according to the intention of the Acts of Parliament repeated in the *5. Act. Parl. 26. K. James 6.* And to that end they ordaine all Papiests & Priests to bee punished by manifolde Civill and Ecclesiasticall paines, as adversaries to Gods true Religion, preached, and by Law established within this Realme, *Act. 24. Parl. 11. K. James. 6.* as common enemies to all Christian governement, *Act. 18. Parl. 16. K. James 6.* as rebellers and gainstanders of our Souveraigne Lords Authoritie, *Act. 47. Parl. 3. K. James 6.* and as Idolaters. *Act. 104. Parl. 7.. K. James 6.* but also in particular (by and attour the Confession of Faith) doe abolish and condemne the Popes Authoritie and Iurisdiction out of this Land, and ordaines the maintainers thereof to bee punished, *Act. 2. Parl. 1. Act. 51. Parl. 3. Act. 106. Parl. 7. Act. 114. Parl. 12. K. James 6.* doe condemne the Popes erroneous doctrine, or any other erroneous doctrine repugnant to any of the Articles.

vicles of the true and Christian religion publickly preached, and by law established in this Realme : And ordaines the spreaders and makers of Bookes or Libels, or Letters, or writts of that nature to be punished, *Act. 46. Parl. 3. Act. 106. Parl. 7. Act. 24. Parl. 11. K. James 6.* doe condemne all Baptisme conforme to the Popes Kirke and the Idolatrie of the Masse, and ordaines all sayers, willfull hearers, and concealers of the Masse, the maintainers and reseters of the Priests, Iesuites, traffiquing Papists, to bee punished without any exception or restriction, *Act. 5. Parl. 1. Act. 120. Parl. 12. Act. 164. Parl. 13. Act. 193. Parl. 14. Act. 1. Parl. 19. Act. 5. Parl. 20. K. James 6.* doe condemne all erroneous bookes and writtes containing erroneous doctrine against the Religion presentlie professed, or containing superstitious Rites and Ceremonies Papisticall, wherby the people are greatly abused; and ordaines the homebringers of them to be punished, *Act. 25. Parl. 11. K. James 6.* doe condemne the monuments and dregs of bygane Idolatrie, as, going to the Crosses, observing the Feastivall dayes of Saints, and such other superstitious and Papisticall Rites, to the dishonour of *GOD*, contempt of true Religion, & fostering of great error among the people, and ordaines the users of them to be punished for the second fault as Idolaters, *Act. 104. Parl. 7. K. James 6.*

Like as many acts of Parliament are conceived for maintenance of *Gods* true and Christian Religion, and the puritie thereof in Doctrine and Sacraments of the true Church of God, the libertie and freedome thereof, in her nationall, Synodall Assemblies, Presbyteries, Sessions, Pollicie, Discipline and Jurisdiction thereof, as that puritie of Religion and libertie of the Church was used, professed, exercised, preached, and confessed according to the reformation of Religion in this Realme. As for instance, *the 99. Act. Parl. 7. Act. 23. Parl. 11. Act. 114. P. 12. Act. 160. Parl. 13. of K. James 6.* Ratified by

by the 4. *Act* of King Charles. So that the 6. *Act*. Parl. 1. and 68. *Act*. Parl. 6. of King James 6. in the yeare of God 1579. declares the Ministers of the blessed Evangell, whom GOD of his mercie had raised up, or hereafter should raise, agreeing with them that then lived in Doctrine, and Administration of the Sacraments, and the people that professed Christ, as he was then offered in the Evangell, and doth communicate with the holy Sacraments, (as in the reformed Kirkes of this Realme they were publickly administrate) according to the Confession of Faith, to bee the true and holy Kirk of Christ Jesus within this Realme, and decernes and declares all and sundrie, who either gainesayes the Word of the Evangell, received and approved, as the heads of the Confession of Faith, professed in Parliament, in the yeare of God 1560. specified also in the first Parliament of King James 6. and ratified in this present Parliament, more particularly do specifie, or that refuses the administration of the holy Sacraments, as they were then ministrated, to bee no members of the said Kirk within this Realme, and true Religion, presently professed, so long as they keepe themselves so divided from the societie of Christs body: And the subsequent *Act*. 69. Parl. 6. of K. James 6. declares, That there is none other Face of Kirk, nor other Face of Religion, then was presently at that time, by the Favour of GOD established within this Realme, which therefore is ever stiled, *Gods true Religion, Christs true Religion, the true and Christian Religion, and a perfect Religion.* Which, by manifold acts of Parliament all within this Realme, are bound to professe to subscribe the articles thereof, the Confession of Faith, to recant all doctrine & errours, repugnant to any of the said Articles, *Act*. 4. and 9. Parl. 1. *Act*. 45. 46. 47. Parl. 3. *Act*. 71. Parl. 6. *Act*. 106. Parl. 7. *Act*. 24. Parl. 11. *Act*. 123. Parl. 12. *Act*. 194. & 197. Parl. 14. of K. James 6. And all Magistrats, Shirefs, &c. on the one parte are ordained to search, apprehend, and punish all contraviners, For

instance, *Act. 5. Parl. 1. Act. 104. Parl. 7. Act. 25. Parl. 11. K. James 6.* And that notwithstanding of the Kings Majesties licences on the contrarie which are discharged and declared to bee of no force, in so farre as they tend in any wayes, to the prejudice and hinder of the execution of the Acts of Parliament against Papists and adversaries of true Religion, *Act. 106. Parl. 7. K. James 6.* On the other part in the *47. Act. P. 2. K. James 6.* It is declared and ordained, seeing the cause of Gods true Religion, and his highnes Authority are so joyned, as the hurt of the one is common to both: & that none shall be reputed as loyall & faithfull subjects to our Sovereigne Lord, or his Authority, but be punishable as rebellers & gainstanders of the same, who shall not give their Confession, and make their profession of the said true Religion, & that they who after defection shall give the Confession of their Faith of new, they shall promise to continue therein in time comming, to maintaine our Souveraigne Lords Authority, and at the uttermost of their power to fortifie, assist, and maintaine the true Preachers and Professors of Christs Evangell, against whatsoever enemies and gainstanders of the same: and namelie, against all such of whatsoever nation, estate, or degree they bee of: that have joyned, and bound themselves, or have assisted, or assists to set forward, and execute the cruell decrees of *Trent*, contrary to the Preachers and true Professors of the Word of God, which is repeated word by word in the Articles of Pacification at *Perth* the 23 of Februar. 1572. approved by Parliament the last of Aprile, 1573. Ratified in Parliament, 1587. and related, *Act. 123. Parl. 12. of K. James 6.* with this addition, that they are bound to resist all treasonable uproares and hostilities raised against the true Religion, the Kings Majestie, and the true Professors.

Like as all liegges are bound to maintaine the K. Majesties Royall Person, and Authority, the Authoritie of Parlements, without

without the which neither any lawes or lawfull judicatories can be established, *Act. 130. Act. 131. Parl. 8. K. James 6. & the subjects liberties, who ought onely to liue & be governed by the Kings lawes, the common lawes of this Realme allanerlie, Act. 48. Parl. 3. K. James the first. Act. 79. Parl. 6. K. James the 4. repeated in the Act. 131. Parl. 8. K. James 6.* Which, if they bee innovated or prejudged, the cōmission anent the union of the two Kingdoms of Scotland & England, which is the sole *Act. of the 17. Parl. of K. James 6.* declares such confusion would ensue, as this Realme could bee no more a free Monarchie, because by the fundamentall lawes, ancient priuiledges, offices and liberties of this Kingdome, nor onely the Princelie Authority of his Majesties Royall discent hath been these many ages maintained, but also the peoples securitie of their Lands, livings, rights, offices, liberties, and dignities preserved, and therefore for the preservation of the said true Religion, Lawes, and Liberties of this Kingdome, it is statute by the 8. *Act. Parl. 1. repeated in the 99. Act. Parl. 7. Ratified in the 23 Act. Parl. 11. and 114. Act. Parl. 12. of K. James 6. and 4. Act. of K. Charles.* That all Kings and Princes at their Coronation & reception of their Princely Authoritie, shall make their faithfull promise by their solemne oath in the presence of the Eternall God, that, enduring the whole time of their liues, they shall serve the same Eternall God to the uttermost of their power, according as he hath required in his most holy Word, contained in the old and new Testament. And according to the same Word, shall maintaine the true Religion of Christ Iesus, the preaching of his holy Word, the due & right ministracion of the Sacraments now receaved and preached within this Realme (according to the Confession of Faith immediatelie preceeding) and shall abolish and gainstand all false Religion contrarie to the same, & shall rule the people, committed to their charge, according to the will and command of God, revealed in his Foresaid

Word, and according to the laudable Lawes and Constitutions received in this Realme, no wayes repugnant to the said will of the Eternall God, and shall procure, to the uttermost of their power, to the Kirk of God, and whole Christian people true and perfite peace in all time coming: and that they shall bee carefull to roote out of their Empire all Hereticks, and enemies to the true worship of God, who shall bee convicted by the true Kirk of God, of the foresaid crimes, which was also observed by his Majestie, at his Coronation in *Edenburgh*, 1633. as may be seene in the order of the Coronation.

In obedience to the Commandement of GOD, conforme to the practise of the godly in former times, and according to the laudable example of our Worthy and Religious Progenitors, and of many yet living amongst us, which was warranted also by act of Counsell, commanding a generall band to bee made and subscribed by his Majesties subjects, of all ranks, for two causes: One was, For defending the true Religion, as it was then reformed, and is expressed in the Confession of Faith, abovewritten, and a former large Confession established by sundrie acts of lawfull generall assemblies, and of Parliament, unto which it hath relation sett downe in publicke Catechismes, and which had beene for many yeares with a blessing from Heaven preached, and professed in this Kirk and Kingdome, as Gods undoubted trueth, grounded only upon his written Word. The other cause was, for maintaining the Kings Majestie, His Person, and Estate: the true worship of GOD, and the Kings authoritie beeing so straitly joined, as that they had the same Friends, and common enemies, and did stand and fall together. And finally, being convinced in our mindes, and confessing with our mouthes, that the present and succeeding generations in this Land, are bound to keep the foresaid nationall Oath and Subscription inviolable, Wee Noblemen, Barrons, Gentlemen, Burgesse,

Burgeſſes, Miniſters, and Commons under ſubſcribing, conſidering divers times before, and eſpecially at this time, the danger of the true reformed Religion, of the Kings honour, and of the publick peace of the Kingdome : By the manifold innovations and evils generallie contained, and particularlie mentioned in our late ſupplications, complaints, and proteſtations : Doe heereby profeſſe, and before *God*, his Angels, and the World ſolemnlie declare : That, with our whole hearts wee agree and reſolve all the dayes of our life conſtantlie to adhere unto, and to defend the foreſaid true Religion, and (forbearing the practiſe of all novations, already introduced in the matters of the worſhip of *G O D*, or approbation of the corruptions of the publicke Governement of the Kirk or civill places and power of Kirkmen, till they be tryed and allowed in free aſſemblies, and in Parlements) to labour by all meanes lawfull to recover the puritie and libertie of the Goſpell, as it was eſtabliſhed and profeſſed before the Foreſaid novations : and becauſe after due examination, wee plainlie perceive, and undoubtedlie believe, that the Innovations and evils contained in our Supplications, Complaints, and Proteſtations have no warrant of the Word of *God*, are contrarie to the Articles of the Foreſaid Confessions to the intention and meaning of the bleſſed reformers of Religion in this Land, to the above writtin Acts of Parlament, and doe ſenſible tend to the re-eſtabliſhing of the Popiſh Religion and tyrannie, and to the ſubverſion and ruine of the true Reformed Religion, and of our Liberties, Lawes and Eſtates. Wee alſo declare, that the Foreſaid Confessions are to be interpreted, and ought to be underſtood of the Foreſaid novations and evils no leſſe than if every one of them had beene expreſſed in the Foreſaid confessions, and that wee are obliged to deteſt and abhorre them amongſt other particular heads of Papiſtrie abjured therein. And therefore from the

knowledge and consciences of our duetie to *God*, to our King and Countrey, without any wordly respect or inducement, so farre as humane infirmitie will suffer, wishing a further measure of the grace of *God* for this effect. We promise, and sweare by the *Great Name of the Lord our GOD*, to continue in the Profession and Obedience of the Foresaid Religion: That we shall defend the same, and resist all these contrarie errors and corruptions, according to our vocation, and to the uttermost of that power that *GOD* hath put in our hands, all the dayes of our life: and in like manner with the same heart, wee declare before *GOD* and Men, That wee have no-intention nor desire to attempt any thing that may turne to the dishonour of *GOD*, or to the diminution of the Kings greatnesse and authoritie: But on the contrarie, wee promise and sweare, that wee shall, to the uttermost of our power, with our meanes and lives, stand to the defence of our dread Sovereigne, the Kings Majestie, his Person, and Authoritie, in the defence and preservation of the foresaid true Religion, Liberties and Lawes of the Kingdome: As also to the mutuall defence and assistance, every one of us of another in the same cause of maintaining the true Religion, and his Majesties Authoritie, with our best counsell, our bodies, meanes, and whole power against all sorts of persons whatsoever. So that whatsoever shall be done to the least of us for that cause, shall bee taken as done to us all in generall, and to every one of us in particular. And that wee shall neither directly nor indirectly suffer our selves to bee divided or withdrawn by whatsoever suggestion, allurements, or terrour from this blessed and loyall Conjunction, nor shall cast in any let or impediment, that may stay or hinder any such resolution as by common consent shall be found to conduce for so good ends. But on the contrarie, shall by all lawfull meanes labour to further and promote the same, and if any such dangerous and divisive motion be made
to us

to us by Word or Writ, We, and every one of us, shall either suppress it, or if need bee shall incontinent make the same known, that it may betimeously obviated: neither do we fear the foule aspersions of rebellion, combination, or what else our adversaries from their craft and malice would put upon us, seeing what we doe is so well warranted, and ariseth from an unfeined desire to maintaine the true worship of God, the Majestie of our King, and peace of the Kingdome, for the common happinesse of our selves, and the posteritie. And because wee cannot look for a blessing from God upon our proceedings, except with our Profession and Subscription wee joine such a life and conversation, as becometh Christians, who have renewed their Covenantant with God; Wee, therefore, faithfully promise, for our selves, our followers, and all other under us, both in publick, in our particular families, and personall carriage, to endeavour to keepe our selves within the bounds of Christian libertie, and to be good examples to others of all Godlinesse, Sobernesse, and Righteousnesse, and of every duetie we owe to God and Man, and that this our Union and Conjunction may be observed without violation, we call the living GOD, the Searcher of our Hearts, to witnes, who knoweth this to be our sincere Desire, and unfained Resolution, as we shall answere to *JESVS CHRIST*, in the great day, and under the paine of Gods everlasting wrath, and of infamie, and losse of all honour and respect in this World, Most humbly beseeching the Lord, to strengthen us by his holy Spirit for this end: and to blesse our desires and proceedings with a happie successe, that Religion and Righteousnesse may flourish in the Land, to the glory of GOD, the honour of our King, and peace and comfort of us all. In witnesse whereof wee have subscribed with our hands all the premisses, &c.

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